

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 OMB-01 SAJ-01 NIC-01 DRC-01

/140 W

----- 036555

R 210728Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8206

INFO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USMISSION BERLIN

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 15251

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, GW, UR

SUBJECT: REPORT ON FRG-USSR EXPERT-LEVEL TALKS IN MOSCOW

REF: A) BONN 14624 (NOTAL) B) BONN 14521

SUMMARY: LEADER OF FRG EXPERT-LEVEL DELEGATION WHICH HELD DISCUSSIONS IN MOSCOW OCTOBER 16 AND 17 PREPARATION TO FONMIN SCHEEL'S MOSCOW TRIP HAS GIVEN BONN GROUP INITIAL IMPRESSIONS AND RUNDOWN REGARDING BERLIN ITEMS RAISED BY FRG AT MEETINGS. FRG IS CAUTIOUSLY OPTIMISTIC THAT PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS TO SOME ISSUES ARE IN THE OFFING. OFFICIAL SAID SCHEEL TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED TO DEPART FRG FOR MOSCOW OCTOBER 31 AND RETURN NOVEMBER 4.

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END SUMMARY.

1. FONOFF FRG DELEGATION LEADER BLECH GAVE INITIAL REPORT TO BONN GROUP ON OCTOBER 19. HE SAID FORMAL LEADER OF SOVIET FONOFF SIDE DURING TALKS WAS TOKOVINEN, BUT THAT MOST TALKING WAS DONE BY KVITSINSKIY. BLECH SAID THAT FRG DEL WAS GIVEN TOUGH TREATMENT DURING FIRST DAY OF TALKS WITH MUCH HEAVY-HANDED BLUSTERING AND POLEMICIZING, BUT SECOND DAY WENT MATERIALLY BETTER WITH SOVIETS ACTUALLY APOLOGIZING FOR EARLIER PERFORMANCE. FRG DEL EMPHASIZED TO SOVIETS FROM START THAT FRG INTERESTED IN FINDING "PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS" TO OUTSTANDING PROBLEMS, YET SOLUTIONS BASED ON BRANDT/BREZHNEV FORMULA OF "STRICT ADHERENCE TO AND FULL APPLICATION OF" THE QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT. BLECH TOLD BONN GROUP THAT THE PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS PROPOSED BY FRG HAD BEEN DRAWN UP SO AS TO PERMIT EACH SIDE TO HOLD TO ITS LEGAL POSITIONS WHILE STILL PERMITTING A PRAGMATIC APPROACH TO THE PROBLEMS.

2. WHILE TAKING CARE TO CAUTION AGAINST OVEROPTIMISM, BLECH SAID THAT, IN HIS VIEW, THE TALKS RESULTED IN A "RELATIVELY POSITIVE ECHO." HE NOTED THAT KVITSINSKIY ACCOMPANIED HIM TO AIRPORT SO THAT DISCUSSIONS COULD BE CONTINUED TO LAST MINUTE. ACCORDING TO BLECH'S REPORT, AFTER INITIAL SOVIET BLUSTER AND CHARGES THAT THE FRG WAS ATTEMPTING TO REINTERPRET OR GET AROUND QA, SOVIET DEL WAS OFTEN FORTHCOMING, EXPRESSING INTEREST IN SOME FRG PROPOSALS, INDICATING LIKELY AGREEMENT ON OTHERS, AND MERELY NOTING THAT OTHERS WHICH POSED GREATER DIFFICULTIES WOULD BE "REPORTED."

3. THE DIM OUTLINES OF A POSSIBLE SOLUTION EMERGED ON WHAT IS PROBABLY THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE, LEGAL ASSISTANCE. KVITSINSKIY BRUSHED ASIDE AMBASSADOR RUSH'S AUGUST 10, 1971 PRESENTATION OF WESTERN POSITION THAT "RESIDENTS" INCLUDED JURIDICAL AS WELL AS NATURAL PERSONS AS ONE-SIDED DECLARATION OF NO EFFECT. LATER IN THE
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 15251

TALKS, HE SHOWED CONSIDERABLE INTEREST IN FRG PROPOSAL THAT COURTS IN WSB AND IN USSR WOULD TREAT WITH EACH OTHER DIRECTLY ON LEGAL ASSISTANCE, INCLUDING PENAL AS WELL AS CIVIL MATTERS. BLECH SAID SOVIETS WERE TOLD THAT GUARANTEES WOULD BE REQUIRED TO ASSURE THAT THERE WOULD BE ABSOLUTE RECIPROCITY AND NO DOUBLE STANDARD. SOVIET RESPONSE WAS TO INQUIRE ABOUT POSSIBLE ROLE FOR THEIR CONGEN IN WEST BERLIN TO WHICH BLECH REPLIED "PERSONALLY" THAT LIMITED ROLE AS "POST OFFICE" MAY BE POSSIBLE. KVITSINSKIY, ALSO SPEAKING "PERSONALLY," SAID THAT SUCH A SOLUTION WAS PERHAPS POSSIBLE, AND BOTH SIDES AGREED TO FOLLOW UP THE IDEA, TO THE EXTENT OF AGREEING TO EXCHANGE LISTS OF COURTS WHICH WOULD PARTICIPATE.

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4. BLECH SAID THAT NO FOLLOW-UP TRIP TO MOSCOW IS ENVISAGED PRIOR TO SCHEEL DEPARTURE, BUT THAT FURTHER CONTACTS WOULD BE TAKEN UP WITH SOVIET EMBASSY BONN.

5. COMMENT: REAL TEST OF SOVIET DESIRE FOR AGREEMENT, OF COURSE, WILL COME DURING SCHEEL VISIT, BUT FRG APPARENTLY DOES HAVE SUFFICIENT GROUNDS FOR CAUTIOUS OPTIMISM. MOVEMENT REPORTED ON LEGAL ASSISTANCE ISSUE, WHICH WOULD PRESUMABLY RESOLVE THAT ISSUE WITH OTHER

EES, IS SUFFICIENT REASON IN ITSELF FOR SOME HOPE.
THAT SOVIETS SHOWED GIVE AND TAKE ATTITUDE DURING TALKS
AND DID NOT MERELY REJECT BULK OF FRG IDEAS IS ALSO
SOMEWHAT ENCOURAGING IN FRG VIEW. AT END OF BONN GROUP
MEETING, HOWEVER, BLECH SAID HE SAW OTHER DISQUIETING
SIGNS DURING MOSCOW STAY OF BERLIN RELATED PROBLEMS
THAT MIGHT PRESENT THEMSELVES IN THE FUTURE, AND SAID
HE WOULD BE DISCUSSING THESE SHORTLY WITH ALLIES.
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